

Message Text

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63

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SWF-02 IGA-02

DRC-01 /118 W

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R 171509Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848

UNCLAS CARACAS 04432

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, VE

SUBJECT: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: NITROGEN PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 91849

1. FOLLOWING FIGURES ON VENEZUELAN PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND ACTUAL OUTPUT OF FERTILIZERS ARE STATED IN METRIC TONS/YEAR.

2. PRODUCTION CAPACITY:

	1971	1972	1973	1974
AMMONIA	218,000	218,000	812,000	812,000
UREA	217,000	217,000	217,000	1,009,000
DIAMMONIUM				
PHOSPHATE	-0-	-0-	146,000	146,000
AMMONIUM				
SULPHATE	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000

ACTUAL PRODUCTION:

AMMONIA	X	9,731	7,656
UREA	X	X	X
DIAMMONIUM			
PHOSPHATE	X	X	X

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AMMONIUM

SULPHATE 26,642 49,405 20,123

3. NO PLANS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED SINCE JANUARY, 1973 OF NEW SIMPLE OR COMPLEX FERTILIZER PROJECTS.

4. PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCTION TO RATED CAPACITY HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LOW. OFFICIALS AT GOVERNMENT'S AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTO VENEZOLANO DE PETROQUIMICA (IVP) POINT OUT THAT GREATEST INCREMENT TO CAPACITY OF AMMONIA AND UREA HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS AND FACILITIES ARE STILL UNDERGOING PRELIMINARY TESTS AND SHAKE DOWN.

5. AT EL TABLAZO, DIFFICULTIES WITH ONE OF THE PARALLEL AMMONIA PLANTS IN JANUARY CAUSED WHOLE OPERATION TO BE SHUT DOWN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. AMMONIA PRODUCTION WAS RESUMED IN MARCH AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN AT RATE OF 65-70 PERCENT CAPACITY. ONE UREA PLANT WENT ON STREAM 14 MAY AND THE SECOND IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN SIX WEEKS. PROJECT ENGINEER HOPES BOTH AMMONIA PLANTS AND BOTH UREA PLANTS WILL BE PRODUCING IN RESPECTABLE RANGE OF 80 PERCENT OF RATED CAPACITY BY END OF SUMMER.

6. MORON EXPANSION PROJECT WENT ON STREAM IN MARCH AND HAS PRODUCED IN AREA OF 60 PERCENT CAPACITY WHILE START-UP TESTS ARE BEING RUN. OFFICIALS EXPLAIN DECLINE OF AMMONIA AND AMMONIUM SUPHATE LAST YEAR AT MORON WAS CAUSED BY DISRUPTION AT PLANT DURING CONSTRUCTION OF EXPANDED FACILITIES. HERE TOO IT IS HOPED THAT PRODUCTION WILL SOON ACHIEVE A BETTER RECORD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NITROGEN, PRODUCTION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA04432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740123-0387
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740540/aaaabiyg.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 91849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: NITROGEN PRODUCTION
TAGS: EAGR, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005